

In the words of Rising Clerk Rebecca Leuchak, who serves on the MB Board of Trustees: “The Quaker membership of the Board is the most engaged and participatory group of individual Friends that I have experienced in the many years of my service there.”

Despite the challenges brought by COVID and conflicts in our larger world, the Moses Brown Friends community has been increasingly active and engaged. Upon the announcement that Matt Glendinning would conclude his 13-year tenure in June 2022, Friends Coordinator Dawn Tripp was appointed by the MB Board of Trustees to serve as the clerk of the search committee. (To read more about the Head of School search please visit [https://www.mosesbrown.org/search/.](https://www.mosesbrown.org/search/))

At the fall 2021 Board of Trustees retreat, Jennifer McFadden, in partnership with co-clerk David Bourns and other members of the committee, led a comprehensive session on Friends decision-making. Slides and salient points from that retreat session have been engaged with throughout the school year at the MB Governance Committee and in other forums to share with the broader MB community a deeper, common understanding of Friends process.

The position of liaison between our committee and the MB Governance Committee to facilitate nominating work is being detailed and codified. In practice, in recent years the current Friends Coordinator has served in the role. This year the Friends Coordinator has been working with the clerk of the Governance Committee to build a calendar for nominating work that will create a more seamless and effective process for committee recommendations of Quaker Trustees and Quaker Board Committee members.

After discernment, our committee recommended three Friends to serve as incoming Trustees: Valerie Reischuk, Frederick Dettmer, and Bruce Shaw. Both Permanent Board and the Moses Brown Board approved. As soon as this process and calendar are finalized and approved by both the Governance Committee and our committee, we will submit it to Moses Brown Permanent Board. Ideally, we can develop more deliberate and thoughtful opportunities between Moses Brown and Yearly Meeting around process, communication, and shared hopes and concerns.

One focus of our work this year has been increased and intentional partnership with the new MB Director of Diversity Equity and Inclusion, Luke Anderson. We will continue to explore how our collective work and care around DEI (and the Moses Brown Strategic Plan for DEI) dovetail explicitly and in practice with our identity and mission as a Friends school. A former graduate of and teacher at Germantown Friends School, Luke has a profound understanding of Friends faith and process and is deeply skilled at listening and discernment. He has attended our committee meetings this past spring.

Additional areas of work this year (and moving into next year) are noteworthy. First, it became clear that in comparison with other Friends Schools of comparable size and scope, Jennifer McFadden does not have ample time to teach Quakerism to Moses Brown students. The committee agreed that ways might be found to increase the Director of Friends Education’s time, as well as the time other faculty have, to teach Quakerism to K-12 students.

The other focus of our work throughout this year has been to explore the scope and sequence for Friends education and Friends decision-making at Moses Brown. In that work, we have studied how Friends practices are taught from K-12 at other Friends schools and how they are currently taught—explicitly and implicitly— at Moses Brown. We are exploring how we, as Friends, might continue to

support a broader and more fluent understanding of Friends practices throughout Moses Brown: with students of all ages in the classroom; with faculty, staff, administrators, and trustees; and in the larger MB community.

In the Light,

David Bourns and Dawn Tripp